

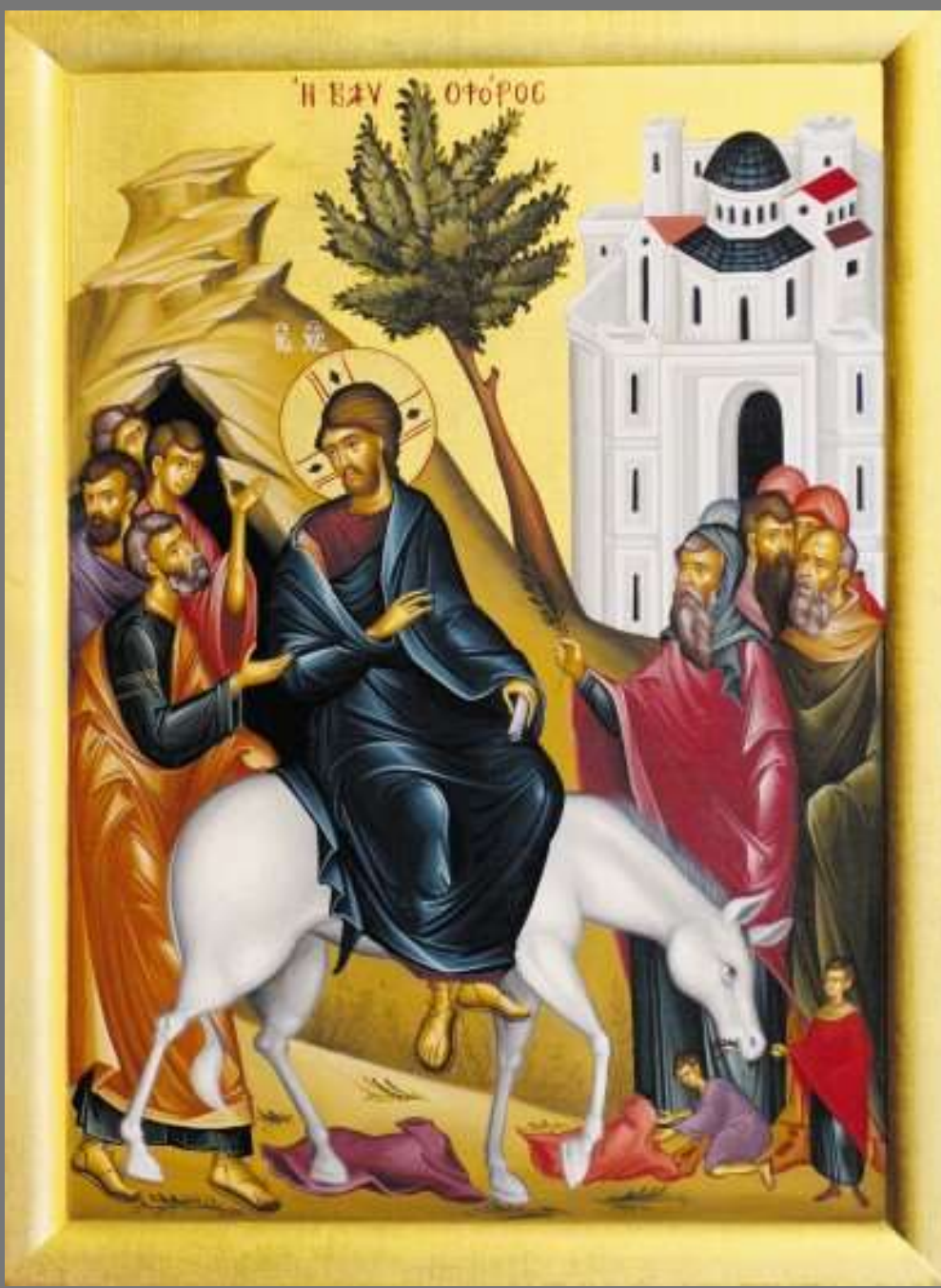


Volume 4, Issue 4

Ouranophantor

April 2021

A Newsletter of St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church

733 S. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60607

www.stbasilchicago.org



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Parish Council President:

Jayme Schenk

Worship Hours

Sundays: Orthros 8:15 a.m. followed by Divine Liturgy
Weekdays: Divine Liturgy 6:30 a.m.
Esperinos: For Major Feasts 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Paraklesis Service 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Friday, April 2, 2021

- + EARLY MORNING Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts at 6:30 a.m.
- + Salutations to the Theotokos 6:00 at p.m.

Monday, April 5, 2021

- + Great Compline at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

- + Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts at 5:30 p.m.
- + Lenten Lecture: Ministering to the Incarcerated at 6:45 p.m. (via Zoom)

Friday, April 9, 2021

- + EARLY MORNING Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts at 6:30 a.m.
- + Salutations to the Theotokos at 6:00 p.m.

Monday, April 12, 2021

- + Great Compline at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Friday, April 16, 2021

- + EARLY MORNING Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts at 6:30 a.m.
- + Salutations to the Theotokos at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 24, 2021 — Saturday of Lazarus

- + Orthros 8:30 a.m.
- + Divine Liturgy at 9:45 a.m.

Sunday, April 25, 2021 — Palm Sunday

- + Orthros 8:15 a.m.
- + Divine Liturgy at 9:45 a.m.

Monday, April 26 to Saturday May 1, 2021 — Holy Week

- + See page 15 for Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, MAY 2, 2021 — Pascha/Easter

- + See page 15 for Liturgical Schedule

We welcome new families to our parish.

Now is the time to reach out to your loved ones who have fallen away for whatever reason and bring them back to church. Now is the time to share your faith with others. Together we must grow. Together we must build the Body of Christ. Invite someone to a service or to a church event. We have one of the friendliest communities in the Archdiocese.

Let us go out so that they will know we are Christians by our love.

Follow on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Basil-Greek-Orthodox-Church-476775679041438/>

Sacraments and Blessings

40-Day Blessings:



Baptisms:



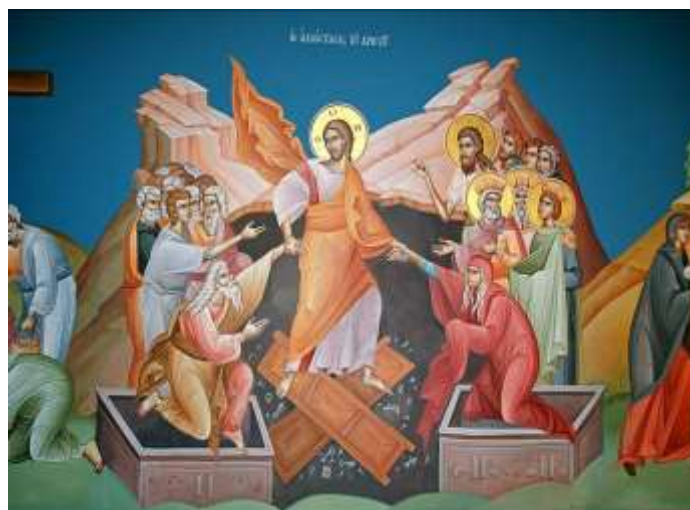
Chrismations:



Weddings:



Funerals:



Father Dimitri's Message



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In light of the services soon to come, I wish to share a little insight into perhaps my favorite service: The Proti-Anastasi Liturgy Holy Saturday morning. Within the Passion narrative, this service takes place as Christ descends into hell. There, he utterly annihilates the power of death and frees our first parents Adam and Eve as St. John the Baptist points out to the kings Solomon and David that this is He of whom he told would come, the One they had always hoped to see.



Prior to this moment, all mankind (with the exception of Enoch [Gen. 5:24] and Elias [2 Kings 2:11]) went to hell when they perished, the good and the bad, because all had sinned. When the Author of Life descended into hell, he freed all of those believing in him and they rose from the dead (Matthew 27:52). This changed the dynamic of our lives forever! Now, with Christ pulling us up, as he did with our ancestors, we too can be pulled from hell. Paradise has opened and we can share in the Resurrection of Christ!

As exciting as this is, this is not why this service is my favorite. Perhaps when I was a child, I simply enjoyed listening to the psaltis chant *Τὸν Κύριον ὑμνεῖτε, καὶ ὑπερυμνοῦτε εἰς πάντα τοὺς αἰῶνας*. “Sing a hymn to the Lord, and exalt Him beyond measure, unto all the ages.” Perhaps I loved watching the priest shower the church with bay leaves and flowers while singing, *Ἀνάστα, ὁ Θεός, κρίνων τὴν γῆν, ὅτι σὺ κατακληρονομήσεις ἐν πᾶσι τοῖς ἔθνεσι*. “Arise, O God; judge the earth, for You shall inherit all the Gentiles.” But as an adult, I realized I loved the service most because of the allegorical messages embedded in the Old Testament readings.



We read the Prophecy of Jonah (Jonah 1-4) and listen to the story of how he spent three days in the belly of the sea monster. This is an obvious allegory to Christ spending three days in the tomb, made especially clear when Jonah exclaims, “I cried out in my affliction to the Lord, my God, and He heard my voice. Out of the belly of Hades, You heard the cry of my voice” (Jonah 2:2). Further, the Lord Himself brings our attention here when He exclaims in Matthew 12:39, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.”

Of further note, during antiquity men and women would pray aloud, standing up with their arms in the orans position, as displayed to the left. Jonah would have certainly prayed in this manner from the sea monster. The body is in the shape of the Cross. So we see within Jonah our freedom from hell and the method in which it is accomplished: The Holy Cross. “And He said to them all, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross *daily**, and follow Me (Luke 9:23 *Alexandrian translation). The statement of daily, while not a universally accepted text within this verse, can be universally accepted as our daily struggle and salvation found within our personal crosses.



But for me, the most powerful image is that of the three Hebrew children (Daniel 3:1-56). We see three young men robbed of everything by the foul king Nebuchadnezzar. Their beautiful names of Hananiah “Jah who is gracious,” Misha’el “Who is like God,” and Azariah “Jah has helped” were replaced with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. In the television

series **Roots**, there is a terrible scene in which the protagonist Kunta Kinte, one of 98 slaves brought to Annapolis, Maryland, is whipped because he refuses to take his slave name of “Toby.”

In this gut-wrenching scene we see him courageously endure the whip until he finally is broken and woodenly declares, "My name ... is Toby." To be robbed of one's name is to be robbed of one's identity. Yet these unbelievably faithful youths never wavered in their determination to worship the one true God. As they were thrown into the fire that killed even those heating it, the three danced with the Wondrous Angel (Jesus Christ) and were not harmed.



This brings to mind the story of Malachi 3:3 "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." There is a popular story of a Bible study surrounding this verse: There was a group of women in a Bible study on the book of Malachi. As they were studying chapter three they came across verse three. This verse puzzled the women and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God.

One of the women offered to find out about the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible study. That week the woman called up a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest in silver beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver. As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that, in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest so as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then she thought again about the verse, that He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver. She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. For if the silver was left even a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed. The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's the easy part — when I see my image reflected in it."

The thought of bearing our Cross daily or being placed within fire can seem very daunting, terrifying. But we, thank God, do not have to do this alone. We have a God who loves us enough to help us carry our Cross (whatever it may be), and who will not let us be destroyed in the fire. God will not give us more than we can handle. More, that heat is not endured alone, and it is not without purpose. If we give it to God, we will become more and more like Him. We will eventually take on the qualities of that purifying fire (The Holy Spirit) and we will dance in the fire like the Hebrew children.

This service, more than the Little or First Resurrection, gives me hope for the present and future in how I, together with Christ, can experience His joy and victory. It is in this service that we see the power of hell crushed. It is here we see death vanquished. It is within this service that we recognize the power of Christ to free us from death (hades/the belly of the monster) and suffering (the terrible fire). Both have been transfigured. Death has become life and the fire of destruction has become the fire of the Holy Spirit. Let us come together like Jonah and the three youths Hananiah, Misha'el, and Azariah in joy as we are delivered from whatever afflicts us. Let us, as a family, chant triumphantly the Doxastikon of the Orthros of Pascha: It is the day of the Resurrection. Let us shine brightly for the festival, and also embrace one another. Brethren, let us say even to those who hate us, "Let us forgive everything for the Resurrection." And thus let us cry aloud, "Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life."

Καλή Ανάσταση! Καλό Πάσχα!

+ Fr. Dimitry

I remain your servant in Christ,
Fr. Dimitri Tobias, *Proistamenos*

Parish Council Update

By Jayme Schenk

Greetings to all St. Basil Parishioners:

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families safe and well. It's difficult to think it's been one year since this pandemic began and Church was forced to stream services online, as only a few people were allowed inside. We are very grateful that a year later we can at least have the current maximum number of 50 people at each service, per the City of Chicago rules. We hope if you cannot join us in person, you are able to watch on Facebook or YouTube. If you do wish to attend any service in person, reservations are required, so please either sign up online or call the church office. There are numerous services weekly, leading up to Holy Week.

If any parishioner is having a difficult time signing up for a vaccine, please feel free to reach out to Father, myself, or Vicky in the office and we can try to help.

And finally, mark your calendars. Our annual Golf Outing is back, July 14 at The Odyssey in Tinley Park.

Happy Easter! Καλή Ανάσταση! Καλό Πάσχα!

Jayme Schenk

Parish Council President



Philoptochos Update

By Nichole Kourvas Drimonas

Greetings Everyone:

Although we cannot hold our annual Palm Sunday Luncheon this year, we will still have our annual Easter Lamb Raffle.

You should be receiving tickets in the mail — please look out for them. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25.00.

There are four grand prizes of baby lambs. They will be packaged and ready for pickup at church.

The winners will be chosen live on Facebook after liturgy on Palm Sunday. Stay tuned for more updates.

Happy Easter! Καλή Ανάσταση! Καλό Πάσχα!

Nichole Kourvas Drimonas

St. Basil Philoptochos President





Stewardship Update



Registration for 2021 has begun. You can sign up at <http://www.stbasilchicago.org/our-parish/stewardship/> or contact the church office. We are looking forward to an exciting and prosperous year.

2021 Snapshot *(as of March 25, 2021)*

<u>Stewards</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Collected</u>
107	\$171,059	\$71,435

Saint Basil Stewardship Ministry wants to hear from you. Have any questions, comments, ideas, or feedback? Let us know how we're doing so that we can better serve our church.

Have you become a steward of St. Basil's?

Visit our website at www.stbasilchicago.org and click on "Our Parish" and "Stewardship" to learn more, or contact the church office at 312-243-3738 for additional information.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matt. 6:21).

2021 Stewardship Challenge

This year, the Stewardship Committee has set an additional challenge to our stewards for the 2021 year. We challenge each steward to become a member of at least one ministry of our parish. With so many to choose from, this should be an easy task. If you want to volunteer, we have philanthropy ministries. If you want to get involved in the life of the church, we have ministries for that too. Even during COVID-19 there are so many things to do. Join us in making our parish more complete by your presence.

Embrace the Challenge!



Prison Ministry — Ministering to the Incarcerated

By Pat Cole

On April 7, 2021, Fr. Paul Martin, the presiding priest of Annunciation and St. Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church in New Buffalo, Michigan, will present a lenten lecture on ministering to incarcerated men. The lecture, to be broadcast as a St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church livestream and Zoom meeting beginning at 6:45 pm, will be based on Father Paul's 15 years' experience at Indiana State Prison (ISP), where, until the pandemic hit, Orthodox Liturgy had been offered weekly by a rotating group of three priests. The evangelism of those priests spread to other facilities in the Indiana prison system and impacted St. Basil Church's prison ministry as well.

Father Paul wishes to emphasize the importance of several regular and very active lay volunteers at the ISP: Peter Bylen, the group administrator who interfaces with the administration; Lee Kopulos, an enthusiastic evangelist; and, of course, Fr. Paul's Presbyteria Nikki, who chants with the men and provides motherly support.

Father Paul was invited to participate in the first Divine Liturgy there by an Antiochian priest, Father Philip Drennan, who started the ministry in 2006. "I felt an immediate connection with the men," he recalls. "They have been rejected by society and, in many cases, by their own families." Before the prison was closed to all visitors and volunteers due to the Covid pandemic, Father Paul would make his rounds once a week, visiting each of the cell houses and ministering to Orthodox and non-Orthodox inmates as well as some of the guards.

As more and more men experienced the Divine Liturgy, they formed Orthodox study groups, and several of them were baptized. Eventually they formalized their fellowship into the St. Moses the Ethiopian Orthodox community, a sort of parish or pseudo-monastic group within the prison.

What does his ministry consist of? Father Paul explains that the men need someone to be there for them, someone who cares about them and who relates to them as a fellow human being. "I think that listening and being present in their lives is more helpful to them than preaching," he notes. The most rewarding aspect of his work, he says, is the experience of finding Christ in the men. He calls it "life-changing." Father finds hope in the resilience of the men. Though they battle with depression and despair, it is enlightening to see them transcend those feelings with the help of God. "We try to help them understand that to experience the Resurrection they must take up their cross and grow where they're planted. And we are there to feed their hope and their faith."

The biggest challenges of his prison ministry stem not from the inmates, but from the administration. Though the guards are generally helpful and compassionate, the prison system itself is callous and unsympathetic. "The system is more interested in punishing than in rehabilitating," Father Paul observes. "The inmates have no creative outlets."

Many people are surprised to learn that there are Orthodox Christians in the prison system. Actually, because of the St. Moses community, new Orthodox study groups were started at other prisons in Indiana. About five years ago, one such group at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility contacted the prison ministry at St. Basil Church and asked us to provide them with liturgy books. We were happy to do so, and from there an ongoing correspondence began with several men who were eventually baptized into the faith.

In 2019, one of the men Pat and Steve Cole were corresponding with invited them to attend Pascha services at the Indiana State Prison led by Father Paul. Though the liturgy was held in a makeshift chapel that was actually an auditorium or gymnasium, the experience was as uplifting as the services held at an actual church. Father Paul observed that a significant number of these men are among the most authentic Christians he has ever had the pleasure of knowing.

Because Father Paul is not currently able to visit to the men in person, his ministry now consists of writing letters and sending books—much like the prison ministry here at St. Basil. And yet, since he knows these men personally and they him, by God’s grace he is able to address their specific issues, which differ from man to man. But this takes time, prayer, and thought.

Father Paul has much to say about his work with inmates, and his talk is sure to offer thought-provoking insights into the realities of life behind bars.

Lenten Lecture: Ministering to the Incarcerated

Presenter: Rev. Ekonomos Paul Martin, pastor, Annunciation and St. Paraskevi

Date: April 7, 2021

Time: 6:45 p.m.

Place: Virtual lecture; access with a link that Father Dimitri will send via email



Someone You Should Know

By Pat Cole

Kathy Michas is definitely someone you should know because she embodies the true spirit of leadership and self-sacrifice in the service of her faith. It's safe to say that coffee hour at St. Basil would not be the same without her. Her warm smile and welcoming demeanor have greeted parishioners after Liturgy nearly every week for the last 10 years. She keeps the kitchen well-stocked and works with her Philoptochos sisters to put out a food table that is both satisfying and respectful of the fasting rules of the Orthodox faith. She and her husband, Harry, have been the backbone of countless events at our parish, ranging from panigiri celebrations to Palm Sunday luncheons. They use their energy, their resources, and their contacts for the good of our parish.

A past president of Philoptochos and a current member of its executive committee, Kathy has been a staunch supporter of all the parish's ministries. She shops for Angel Tree families, helps to pack bag lunches for residents of the Lakeview Shelter, and makes sure that the baking sessions for Yiayia's Kouzina run smoothly. She is at every baking session, preparing the dough for koulourakia and the filling for baklava, showing newcomers how to form the braided cookies and how to cut and layer the phyllo--all with a smile and a kind word. Of course, all of these things are group efforts, but Kathy is a vital part of it all, working quietly behind the scenes.

The Orthodox faith and Greek traditions are woven into Kathy's upbringing. She was born and raised in Chicago, one of three children in a close-knit Greek family. Her parents emigrated from Tripoli, and Greek was spoken at home. Her family opened Papa Chris' Place in Chicago, where Kathy and her siblings work. The family attended St. Demetrios in Chicago, and the children attended Greek school at St. Andrews as well as Fanari camp. Kathy recalls meeting a few of her Philoptochos sisters from St. Basil at Fanari, including Hele-ne Frankos, Christine Rousakis, and Kathy Walstrom.

Kathy and Harry Michas met at an AHEPA conference in Atlanta in 1982 and got married at St. Demetrios in Chicago two years later. They have two grown children and one grandchild. Harry's friendship with Father Kerhulas brought the Michases to St. Basil in the 1990s, and this has been their home ever since, even though they live in Park Ridge. Harry has been on the parish council for nearly 20 years, currently serving as treasurer. He also takes the lead in all matters related to the physical plant of the church, from plumbing to the sound system to lighting and heating. Harry was part of the parish council subcommittee that spearheaded the rebuilding after the fire in 2013.

Like many Orthodox Christians who have been born into the faith, Kathy doesn't think about why she is Orthodox. The beliefs and traditions of Orthodoxy are in her DNA. As for her being part of the St. Basil family, she most appreciates the fact that our parish is small, welcoming, and down to earth. "People are not judged on how they are dressed at Sunday Liturgy," she notes. "We gather here in a spirit of love and friendship."



Sunday School

By Jennifer Georgopoulos

We have now entered the season of Lent. The St. Basil Sunday School will be participating in the Love at Lent project. The Love at Lent books have been mailed to the Sunday School families. Love at Lent is a project for the entire family. Each day a family selects a card for each day of Lent. Each card encourages behavior toward the greater good, mindfulness, prayer, and spiritual devotion for families. We are excited about this new lenten project.

Sunday School is offering both in person and online sessions. Please remember that in order to receive instruction students need to be registered for the St. Basil Sunday School program. Sunday School students, grades K-4 can access their Sunday School lessons in the Bitmoji virtual classroom on the St. Basil website. Students grades 5-7 may also access lessons in the Bitmoji through Zoom meets. The older grades meet virtually via Zoom, and class has been a great success. The Bitmoji classrooms, Zoom meets, and lessons are outstanding. Great job to The St. Basil Sunday School team!



Dress A Girl Around the World

By Dorothy Bezemes

It is with the Grace of God, and overjoying gratitude and happiness that we are planning our 9th Metropolis Dress a Girl Around the World Sew-a-thon on Saturday, November 13, 2021.

As we go forward we will keep you informed of our progress and future workshops. We will also adhere to the rules of the church regarding Covid-19.

Please mark your calendars! We would love for you to join us!



DONATIONS for GREAT LENT & PASCHAL SEASON 2021

GREAT LENT:

Flowers for Icon of the Panagia on Fridays

- 1st Salutations/Χαιρετισμοί - *donated*
- 2nd Salutations/Χαιρετισμοί - *donated*
- 3rd Salutations/Χαιρετισμοί - *donated*
- 4th Salutations/Χαιρετισμοί - *donated*
- Akathist Hymn/Ακάθιστος Ύμνος - *donated*

- ◆ **Flowers for Stavroproskinesis (3rd Sunday) - \$300**
- ◆ **Bottles or Cases of Nama Wine**
- ◆ Incense for Great Lent - *donated*
- ◆ Flowers for Icon of Palm Sunday - \$50—*donated*
- ◆ Palms & Daphne for Palm Sunday - *donated*



HOLY WEEK:

- ◆ Flowers for Icon of Nymphios —*donated*
- ◆ Extra Virgin Olive Oil for Holy Unction — *donated*
- ◆ **Flour for Holy Unction**
- ◆ Seven Candles for Holy Unction—*donated*
- ◆ Flowers for Icon of Mystical Supper - *donated*
- ◆ Flowers for Icon of Crucifixion - *donated*
- ◆ Candles for the Holy Cross – \$50 – *donated*
- ◆ 12 Candles for the Twelve Holy Gospels - \$80 – *donated*
- ◆ Stefani-Stavromenon (Flowered Wreath) Holy Thursday - *donated*
- ◆ **White Sheet for Body of Christ - 1 queen flat needed**
- ◆ Flowers for Decorating the Epitafios - *donated*
- ◆ Epitafios Roses for the Faithful - *donated*
- ◆ Rose Water & Rose Petals Holy Friday - *donated*
- ◆ Rose Petals for Holy Saturday Morning - *donated*
- ◆ **Clergy Resurrection/Anastasi Candle – \$250**
- ◆ Flowers for Icons of the Resurrection —*donated*

GREAT & HOLY PASCHA (5.02.21):

- ◆ **Paschal Easter Lilies for Anastasi – \$25 each (19 needed)—1 *donated thus far***
- ◆ Eggs for Holy Pascha —*donated*
- ◆ Tulle & Ribbon for Paschal Eggs —*donated*

Note: Please specify exact item with your donation. THANK YOU for your love & support! Βοήθειά σας!

Please complete the information below and return entire form to the St. Basil Church office along with your payment.

Kindly make checks payable to St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church.

(Please print)

Item _____

Name _____


Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2021

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS		THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 28th		ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent APRIL 4th		VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent APRIL 11th		ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 18th		ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 25th GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 30th		GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! MAY 2nd NO FASTING!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

Holy Week—Volunteers Needed

CALLING ALL YOUNG LADIES

We need myrofores (myrrh-bearing women) for Holy Friday night.

Please wear a white dress and see Jennifer Georgopoulos if you are interested in participating. We will be socially distancing.



CALLING ALL STRONG ARMS

We need volunteers to carry the Kouvouklion around the church on the evening of Holy Friday. Please participate in the honor of carrying the bier of our Lord Jesus Christ

Please see Tony Frankos if you are interested in participating. We will be socially distancing.



CALLING ALL FOREIGN LANGUAGE SPEAKERS

We need volunteers to read the Gospel in foreign languages during the Agape Vespers on Easter Sunday, May 2. Looking for a variety of languages, including:

Spanish—Italian—Chinese—Tigrina
Latin—Russian—Romanian—Swahili
German—Arabic—Oromo—English



Holy Week — Liturgical Schedule



Saturday, April 24

Saturday of Lazarus
Orthros 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 9:45 a.m.



Thursday, April 29

Mystical Supper Liturgy
Vespers Liturgy 6:30 a.m.
The Passion Service
Orthros 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 25

Palm Sunday
Orthros 8:15 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 9:45 a.m.
Holy Monday Orthros
(Bridegroom Service)
Orthros 6:00 p.m.



Friday, April 30

The Royal Hours
Hours Service 9:00 a.m.
The Apokatheilosis
(Removal from the Cross)
Vespers 3:00 p.m.
The Lamentations
Orthros 7:00 p.m.



Monday, April 26

Holy Tuesday Orthros
(Bridegroom Service)
Orthros 6:00 p.m.



Tuesday, April 27

Holy Tuesday Orthros
(Bridegroom Service)
Orthros 6:00 p.m.



Wednesday, April 28

Unction Ευχέλιον Service
Unction 3:00 p.m.
Orthros 6:00 p.m.



Saturday, May 1

The Protianastasi
(Little Resurrection)
Vespers Liturgy 8:30 a.m.
The Orthros of the Resurrection
Orthros 11:00 p.m.



Sunday, May 2

The Resurrection
Come Receive the Light 12:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 12:30 a.m.
The Agape Vespers 12:00 p.m.



Confession with Fr. Dimitri

Call Fr. Dimitri Tobias to make an appointment.

The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Have I truly recognized my complete dependence on God? Have I been proud, arrogant, and self-righteous in my ways? Have I been selfish, possessive, and self-seeking? Have I sought after status, power, and wealth?

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Have I endured difficulties and afflictions with faith and patience? Have I felt sadness for the sufferings of the poor, the hungry, and addicted; the sick, the lonely, and the sinful of the world? Have I truly been sorrowful for my sins and faults?

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Have I tried to serve or rather to dominate others at home, school, work, office, church, and elsewhere? Have I nursed against anyone? Have I been resentful, bitter, unforgiving, or insulting and abusive to others? Have I loved my enemies?

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Have I truly yearned for God's will to be done in all things? Have I worked for justice in my family, society, and the world in ways within my reach? Have I tried to cultivate a righteous life through prayer, fasting, worship, receiving Holy Communion, and deeds of love toward others?

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Have I shown compassion and help toward the poor, hungry, lonely, and needy around me? Have I tried to understand and forgive others? Have I been indifferent, judgmental, or legalistic?

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Have I loved goodness, purity, and holiness? Have I succumbed to evil motives and intentions? Have I given way to impure thoughts, words, or deeds? Have I been guilty of bias and prejudice? Have I been hypocritical, pretentious, or self-indulgent to sinful passions?

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

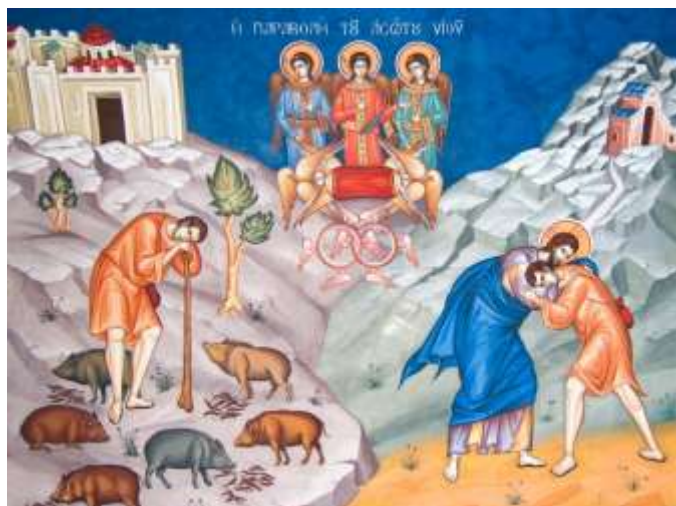
Do I have God's peace in my heart? Have I been unfairly angry, aggressive, or impatient? Have I worked for peace at home, work, church, and in society? Have I been irritable, polemical, or divisive?

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Have I complained when persecuted for God's sake? Have I prayed for my persecutors? Have I failed to defend anyone in the truth for fear of humiliation or persecution? Have I had the courage to stand up for what is right despite criticism, ridicule, or persecution?

Blessed are you when they revile you and persecute you on my account; rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

Is the joy of Christ in my heart even in trying moments? Have I been pessimistic, despondent, or despairing? Have I truly delighted in the promise of God's treasures in heaven?



Confession with Fr. Dimitri

Call Fr. Dimitri Tobias to make an appointment.

Pray and think about your confession over several days. Ask God to help you perceive your sins and to make a thorough confession of them. Sometime before the sacrament of Holy Confession, offer selected prayers from the following Confessional Prayers, Psalm 51, or the following prayer of repentance:

Prayer of Repentance

O Lord my God, I confess that I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. I have also omitted to do what Your holy law requires of me. But now with repentance and contrition I turn again to Your love and mercy. I entreat You to forgive me all my transgression and to cleanse me from all my sins. Lord, fill my heart with the light of Your truth. Strengthen my will by Your grace. Teach me both to desire and to do only what pleases You. Amen.

Now, without justification or self-pity, make a prayerful examination of your conscience regarding all things. As a help, reflect on your life in the light of the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. Take pencil and paper and specify your sins so that, at the time of the sacrament, you will be able to make a thorough confession from the list, without confusion or lapse of memory,

The Ten Commandments

I am the Lord your God, and you shall have no other gods before me.

Has God been the source, center, and hope of my life? Have I put myself, others or things before God? Have I failed to trust in God's existence, love, and mercy? Have I failed to pray to God, to worship Him, and to thank Him for His blessings? Have I tried to serve God and keep His commandments faithfully? Have I murmured or complained against God in adversity? Have I praised and glorified God through my words and deeds?

You shall not make for yourself a graven image in order to worship it.

Have I valued anyone or anything above God? Have I given to anyone or anything the love, honor, and worship that belongs to God alone? Have I made an idol of any person, idea, occupation, or thing?

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Have I blasphemed God's holy name in any way? Have I sworn a false oath? Have I broken any solemn vow or promise? Have I entered into an agreement, promise, or contract against God's law? Have I cursed or used foul language?

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

Have I worshiped regularly on Sundays and major feast days and have I helped others to do the same? Have I worked unnecessarily on Sundays or major feast days or caused others to do so? Have I spent the Lord's Day in wholesome and edifying ways?

Honor your father and mother.

Have I loved and respected my parents as I should? Have I neglected them or failed to help them? Have I disobeyed them, deceived them, or caused them pain by my words or deeds? Have I treated all my family members with patience and love?

You shall not kill.

Have I caused the harm, injury, or death of anyone? Have I wished my own or anyone's harm or death? Have I been cruel to animals or destroyed any life unnecessarily?

You shall not commit adultery.

Have I committed any immoral acts alone or with others? Have I caused others to commit immoral acts? Have I committed immoral acts in my heart?

You shall not steal.

Have I taken anything that was not mine from anyone or from anywhere? Have I cheated anyone? Have I caused others to steal or cheat? Have I tried to find the owners of lost things I have found? Have I damaged or destroyed anything that belonged to another? Have I defrauded anyone of rightful wages? Have I paid my debts? Have I given to the poor and to philanthropic causes in proportion to my means?

You shall not bear false witness.

Have I given false testimony against anyone? Have I spoken evil, told lies, or spread rumors about anyone? Have I disclosed to anyone the sins and faults of another? Have I made careless statements or done anything else to harm the name and reputation of another? Have I engaged in idle gossip?

You shall not covet.

Have I looked with envy, jealousy, or hatred toward the possessions, talents, or achievements of others? Have I desired the downfall or loss of others out of evil intent that I might benefit? Have I grieved that God has bestowed greater blessings on others than on me?

Lenten Services



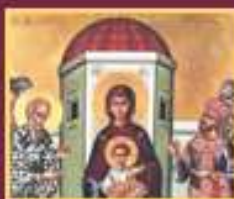
GREAT COMPLINE

Mondays: 6:00 p.m.
March 15, 22, 29 & April 5, 12



LITURGY OF THE PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS

Wednesdays 5:30 p.m.
March 17, 31 & April 7, 14
Fridays 6:30 a.m.
March 19, 26 & April 2, 9, 16



SALUTATIONS TO THE THEOTOKOS **(THE AKATHIST HYMN)**

Fridays 6:00 p.m.
March 19, 26 & April 2, 9, 16

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY



St. Basil
Greek Orthodox Church
of Chicago, Illinois



When: Tuesday Mornings –
10:00 am – 11:00 am

Where: ONLINE VIA



Participate in a Zoom Meeting Watch on Facebook Live and ask

Bible Study with Fr. Dimitri



St. Paul's
1st Letter
to the
Corinthians

ST. BASIL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



ONLINE
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Zoom Classroom

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Meeting ID: 979 0129 7537

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April 23 St. George the Trophy Bearer — *If April 23 falls on or before Great and Holy Pascha, the feast of St. George is translated to Bright Monday.*



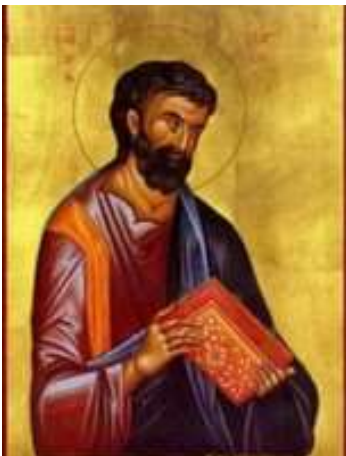
George, this truly great and glorious martyr of Christ, was born of a father from Capadocia and a mother from Palestine. Being a military tribune, or chiliarch (that is, a commander of a thousand troops), he was illustrious in battle and highly honored for his courage. When he learned that the Emperor Diocletian was preparing a persecution of the Christians, Saint George presented himself publicly before the Emperor and denounced him. When threats and promises could not move him from his steadfast confession, he was put to unheard-of tortures, which he endured with great bravery, overcoming them by his faith and love towards Christ. By the wondrous signs that took place in his contest, he guided many to the knowledge of the truth, including Queen Alexandra, wife of Diocletian, and was finally beheaded in 296 in Nicomedia.

His sacred remains were taken by his servant from Nicomedia to Palestine, to a town called Lydda, the homeland of his mother, and then were finally transferred to the church which was raised up in his name. (The translation of the saint's holy relics to the church in Lydda is commemorated on November 3; Saint Alexandra the Queen, on April 21.)

Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

Liberator of captives, defender of the poor, physician of the sick, and champion of kings, O trophy-bearer, Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

April 25 St. Mark the Evangelist— *If April 25 falls on or before Great and Holy Pascha, the feast of St. Mark is translated to Bright Tuesday.*



Mark was an idolater from Cyrene of Pentapolis, which is near Libya. Having come to the Faith of Christ through the Apostle Peter, he followed him to Rome. While there, at the prompting of Peter himself and at the request of the Christians living there, he wrote his Gospel in Greek, and it is second in order after Matthew's. Afterwards, traveling to Egypt, he preached the Gospel there and was the first to establish the Church in Alexandria. The idolaters, unable to bear his preaching, seized him, bound him with ropes, and dragged him through the streets until he, cut to pieces on rocks, gave up his soul. It is said that he completed his life in martyrdom about the year 68. He is depicted in holy icons with a lion next to him, one of the living creatures mentioned by Ezekiel (1:10) and a symbol of Christ's royal office, as Saint Irenaeus of Lyons writes.

Apolytikion in the Third Tone

O Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark, intercede to our merciful God, that He may grant our souls forgiveness of sins.

April 24 Lazarus Saturday



Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary, the friends of the Lord Jesus, had given Him hospitality and served Him many times (Luke 10:38-42; John 12:2-3). They were from Bethany, a village of Judea. This village is situated in the eastern parts by the foothills of the Mount of Olives, about two Roman miles from Jerusalem. When Lazarus — whose name is a Hellenized form of "Eleazar," which means "God has helped," became ill some days before the saving Passion, his sisters had this report taken to our Saviour, Who was then in Galilee. Nonetheless, He tarried yet two more days until Lazarus died; then He said to His disciples, "Let us go into Judea that I might awake My friend who sleepeth." By this, of course, He meant the deep sleep of death. On arriving at Bethany, He consoled the sisters of Lazarus, who was already four days dead. Jesus groaned in spirit and was troubled at the death of His beloved friend. He asked, "Where have ye laid his body?" and He wept over him. When He drew nigh to the tomb, He commanded that they remove the stone, and He lifted up His eyes, and giving thanks to God the Father, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." And he that had been dead four

days came forth immediately, bound hand and foot with the grave clothes, and Jesus said to those standing there, "Loose him, and let him go." This is the supernatural wonder wrought by the Saviour that we celebrate on this day.

According to an ancient tradition, it is said that Lazarus was thirty years old when the Lord raised him; then he lived another thirty years on Cyprus and there reposed in the Lord. It is furthermore related that after he was raised from the dead, he never laughed till the end of his life, but that once only, when he saw someone stealing a clay vessel, he smiled and said, "Clay stealing clay." His grave is situated in the city of Kition, having the inscription: "Lazarus the four days dead and friend of Christ." In 890 his sacred relics were transferred to Constantinople by Emperor Leo the Wise, at which time undoubtedly the Emperor composed his stichera for Vespers, "Wishing to behold the tomb of Lazarus . . ."

Apolytikion of Lazarus Saturday

First Tone

O Christ our God, before Your Passion, You raised Lazarus from the dead to confirm the common Resurrection for all. Therefore, we carry the symbols of victory as did the youths, and we cry out to You, the victor over death, "Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. "

Kontakion of Lazarus Saturday

Second Tone

Christ, everyone's joy, the truth, the light, life, the resurrection of the world, has by His goodness appeared to those on earth. He is the archetype of the resurrection, granting divine forgiveness to all.



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TO SIGN UP TO ATTEND DIVINE SERVICES
RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

If a family member is unable to use Sign Up Genius, please call the church office and Vicky will help sign up that individual.

Buying more online these days?



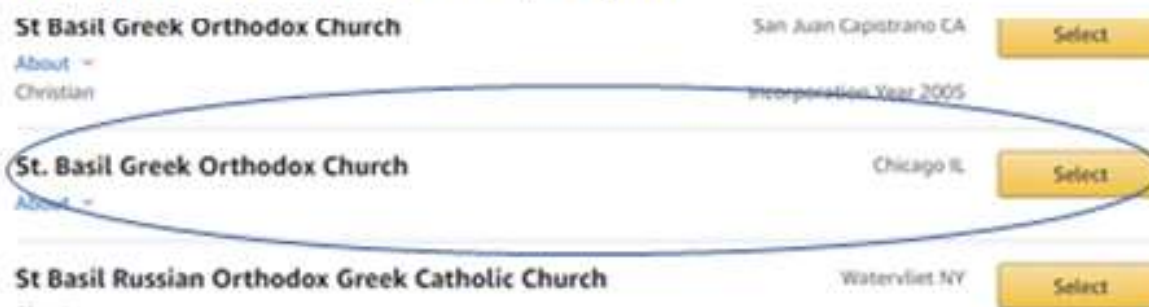
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Drawing on Palm Sunday, April 25
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2021 St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church Lenten Lecture

April 7 at 6:45 p.m. via Zoom

Virtual lecture; access with a link that Father Dimitri will send via email



Speaker: Rev. Dr. Paul Martin

Pastor of the Annunciation-St. Paraskevi
Greek Orthodox Church, New Buffalo, MI

Reflections on Prison Ministry as a Volunteer Chaplain and an Orthodox Priest at the Indiana State Prison

[Watch on YouTube](#)

Since 2006, Fr. Paul has been serving as Volunteer Chaplain to the Brotherhood of St. Moses the Black at Indiana State Prison in Michigan City, IN.



St. Basil — 2021 Stewards

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St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church - April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas	29 6:00 pm Great Compline	30 10:00 am Bible Study	31 5:30 pm Liturgy of the Pre- Sanctified Gifts Online A.R.E. Class 6:30 pm	1	2 6:30 am Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri Early Morning Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts 6:00 pm Salutations to The- otokos	3 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Third Saturday of Lent
4 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Sunday of the Holy Cross	5 6:00 pm Great Compline Parish Council	6 10:00 am Bible Study	7 5:30 pm Liturgy of the Pre- Sanctified Gifts Online A.R.E. Class 6:30 pm	8	9 6:30 am Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri Early Morning Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts 6:00 pm Salutations to The- otokos	10 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Fourth Saturday of Lent
11 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Sunday of St. John Climacus	12 6:00 pm Great Compline	13 7:00 pm Philoptochos ZOOM Meeting	14 5:30 pm Liturgy of the Pre- Sanctified Gifts Online A.R.E. Class 6:30 pm	15	16 6:30 am Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri Early Morning Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts 6:00 pm The Akathist Hymn	17 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Fifth Satur- day of Lent: The Akathist Hymn
18 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt	19	20	21	22	23 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri	24 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday
25 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Palm Sunday Holy Sunday Night - Orthros of Holy Monday Bridegroom Service Sunday Night	26 6:00 pm Holy Monday Night - Orthros of Holy Tues- day Bridegroom Service Monday Night	27 6:00 pm Holy Tuesday Night - Orthros of Holy Wednesday Bride- groom Service Tues- day Night with Hymn of St. Kassiani	28 3:00 pm Holy Unction Holy Wednesday Night - Orthros of Holy Thursday	29 6:30 am Vespers Liturgy of the Mystical Supper Holy Thursday Night Orthros of Holy Friday - The Passion Read- ing of the 12 Gospel	30 9:00 am Royal Hours of Holy Friday Vespers of Holy Friday The Unmalling Holy Friday Night - Orthros of Holy Satur- day - The Lamenta- tions	1 8:30 am Vespers Liturgy of the Proti-Anastasi Service of Prepara- tion 11:00 pm Come Receive the Light!



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church

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&
Καλό Πάσχα**



**St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church
733 South Ashland Ave.
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